



Tips for Car Seat Safety for Children 8 to 12 Years Old



Children 8–12 years old should ride in booster seats until they are big enough to fit in seat belts properly. Children should still ride in the back seat where it is safest.

Using a Booster Seat Correctly

- Place the booster seat flat on the vehicle seat, in the back seat.
- Have your child sit on the booster seat and buckle the seat belt.
- Make sure the seat belt fits your child properly.
 - Adjust the lap belt so it lies snugly across the child's upper thighs, not across the stomach.
 - Adjust the shoulder belt so it rests across the chest.

When to Use a Seat Belt

For a child to properly fit in a seat belt, the child must:

- Be tall enough to sit without slouching;
- Be able to keep his or her back against the vehicle seat;
- Be able to keep his or her knees naturally bent over the edge of the vehicle seat;
- Be able to keep his or her feet flat on the floor.

Additionally:

- The lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach; and
- The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest, and not cross the neck or face.
- Never let children put the shoulder belts under their arm or behind their backs, because it could cause severe injuries in a crash.



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For more safety tips visit www.safercar.gov/parents